

REMARKS

This application contains claims 6, 8-11, 25-27, 36 and 37. Claims 1-5, 7, 12-24, 28-35, 38 and 39 were withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement and are now canceled without prejudice. Claims 6, 8, 25 and 36 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Lamarre for the courtesy of an interview with Applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26856) at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 20, 2004. At the interview, Applicant's representative discussed the distinction of the present invention over the cited art, as explained in Applicant's response to the previous Official Action in this case, filed September 14, 2004. It was agreed that the claims would be allowable over the cited art if the independent claims were amended to correct certain informalities, and specifically to add recitation of "communication test packets and application packets." Applicant has now amended claim 6, 8, 25 and 36 accordingly.

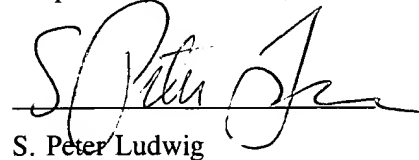
In the previous Official Action, claims 6, 8-11, 25-27, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over admitted prior art (as cited in the Background of the present patent application) in view of Thadani et al. (U.S. Patent 5,648,965). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. These claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons explained in the response filed September 14, 2004, and in the above-mentioned interview.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits

that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance.  
Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Date: April 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", written over a horizontal line.

S. Peter Ludwig

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